IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Christopher F. Claiborne, et al.

Serial No.:

Unassigned

Case No.: 20282DA

Art Unit: 1625

Filed:

Even date herewith

Examiner: P.L. Morris

For:

SUBSTITUTED IMIDAZOLES HAVING CYTOKINE

INHIBITORY ACTIVITY

The Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the application as follows.

In the specification:

Page 1, line 4, Please insert the following: -- This is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/358,199 filed July 21, 1999 and claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Application No. 60/095,051, filed July 31, 1998. --.

In the claims:

Plese cancel claim 3 and amend claim 1 as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A compound represented by formula I:

$$P$$
 N
 R_1
 R_2
 R_2

(I)

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 R_1 is C_{1-6} alkyl;

 R_2 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, OC_{1-6} alkyl or $C(O)C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

 R_3 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, OC_{1-6} alkyl, [or] $C(O)C_{1-6}$ alkyl or aralkyl;

X is [C or] N;

Y is H, halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, CN or CF₃;

Z is NHR₃ or F;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt and/or hydrate thereof, or where applicable, a geometric or optical isomer or racemic mixture thereof.

Remarks

The claims are 1, 2, and 4-13. Claim 1 has been amended to delete subject matter without prejudice to pursuit of such subject matter in continuing and/or divisional applications, and to correct typographical and grammatical errors. Accordingly, the changes do not constitute new matter.

Attorney for Applicants can be reached at the telephone number and address below. Correspondence should continue to be sent to the address below. Any additional fees or deficiency in fees required should be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 20, 2000